

Chris Johnson

From: Chris Johnson
Sent: 30 October 2015 12:52
To: Donna Livesey (donna.livesey@statistics.gsi.gov.uk)
Cc: Parminder Sanghera (Parminder@communitylawpartnership.co.uk); Sharon Baxter; Emma Westwood
Subject: English Traveller Caravan Count

Dear Donna,

The Travellers Advice Team at Community Law Partnership advises and represents Gypsies and Travellers throughout England and Wales and has taken some of the leading cases in this area of the law. We have only just had your consultation brought to our attention. We are currently under great pressure of work and can only provide a brief response to your consultation. We will go through your questions in turn:-

In individual cases, especially where we are dealing with clients who are seeking planning permission for sites, the Traveller caravan count statistics are essential. Additionally in challenges to National Government Policy and in campaigning and policy work on such issues, the statistics are also essential.

2. Despite the need to rely on the statistics, there is a great deal of evidence that the statistics are inadequate and, in many cases, amount to an undercount. In this regard we still believe the work of Pat Niner is entirely relevant: *Counting Gypsies and Travellers: A Review of the Gypsies Caravan Count System* (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2004). In some cases the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment undertaken by a local authority under the Housing Act 2004 Section 225 will be more accurate but we note that, most unfortunately, the Housing and Planning Bill is set to remove that entirely (see clauses 224 & 225). If that happens the Traveller Caravan Count will be even more important.

3. We find the statistical commentary helpful.

4. We normally access the statistics via the internet.

5. We have not had to request any additional data or raise any additional queries.

6. We have no additional comments apart from to say we hope that the Count is continued since we think it would be disastrous if it was stopped.

7. We are happy for you to contact us with any further queries.

We trust this is of some assistance and look forward to hearing your final report on the issue. I am copying in my fellow team members.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Johnson

Chris Johnson, Partner
chrisjohnson@communitylawpartnership.co.uk

The Community Law Partnership
4th Floor, Ruskin Chambers
191 Corporation Street